



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 9

Meeting Date: 3-29-06
Meeting Location: Hendricks County Dept. of Child Services
6781 E US Hwy. 36, Avon, IN 46123

Council Members Present:

Kandi Killin, Barbara South, Judge David, and Char Burkett-Sims

Council Members Absent:

Lisa Allen, Judge Boles, Judge Headley, Steve Vaughn and Sally Wheat

Others In Attendance:

Debbie Sampson, MSW Intern, Lisa Plewa of Children's Bureau, and Norma Stewart of White's Residential

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 AM

1. An update of the DCS Child Welfare Reform Initiative was provided.
2. A summary of SEA 132, SEA 139 and SEA 153 was presented and discussed. Of specific interest were the shortened timelines for CHINS, TPR and Case Reviews included in SEA 139. The group discussed activities that could be taken within the Region to better facilitate processes. A suggestion was made to begin observing court proceedings and process across the counties within the Region to identify best practices. For an example, a Family Case Manager from Hendricks County could sit in the Putnam County Court to observe and identify things that are done well and that could be replicated in other counties.

There was also discussion of looking more closely at the caseload numbers and trends across the counties within the Region. Questions of interest include:

- How do you determine whether to make a case an informal adjustment (IA) or file for CHINS?

- Would it help to have hearings for IAs to help parents better understand the seriousness of involvement?
 - What is the percentage of IA that go to CHINS?
 - What were the number of CHINS, IAs, and JD/JS cases in the first quarter of 2006?
3. Lisa Plewa of the Children's Bureau presented information regarding substance abuse and provided materials addressing this issue published by the US Dept. of Health and Human Services.
 4. Lisa also provided information regarding the Neighborhood Alliance for Child Safety (NACS) Program in Marion County which is a prevention program similar to what is planned in Region 9 through a contract with the Children's Bureau funded by federal Title IV-B funds. Some of the highlights of the program are:
 - There is a community child/abuse neglect prevention initiative.
 - This initiative will provide services to children/families who are not in the child welfare system.
 - Examples of services provided through NACS are child care subsidy or child care arrangements, family to family mentoring and other in-kind services.
 - Services are provided mostly by volunteers.
 - NACS has been successful in reducing abuse and neglect and is currently being evaluated by IUPUI.
 5. Kathy Campbell, representing foster parents on the Regional Services Council, has resigned. The Council is in need of a foster parent who is willing to take her place. Nominations were received for Mickey Bayless, Diane Wilson, and Cindy Holder.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:

Date: 4-26-06

Location: Hendricks County Dept. of Child Services, 6781 E US Hwy. 36,
Avon, IN 46123

Time: 9:00 AM

Meeting Adjourned at 11:00 AM